

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 543

Introduced by Assembly Member Ma
(Principal coauthor: Senator Runner)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Block)
(Coauthor: Senator Cedillo)

February 25, 2009

An act to amend Sections 123492 and 123493 of the Health and Safety Code, and to amend Section 7 of Chapter 878 of the Statutes of 2006, relating to perinatal care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 543, as introduced, Ma. Perinatal care: The Nurse-Family Partnership.

Existing law establishes the Nurse-Family Partnership program to provide grants for voluntary nurse home visiting programs for expectant first-time mothers, their children, and their families, as specified. Existing law prohibits the use of grant moneys to match other grants administered by the department.

This bill would allow the use of Nurse-Family Partnership program grant moneys as a match for other grants administered by the department.

Existing law establishes the California Families and Children Account in the State Treasury to accept private donations to pay for the program. Existing law only allows grants to be distributed if the Director of Finance determines that there are sufficient funds from private donations available in the account. Additionally, under existing law, if there are not sufficient funds on deposit in the account by January 1, 2009, the account shall cease to exist.

This bill would extend the time before which there must be sufficient funds in the account to January 1, 2014, and would allow grants to be distributed without the determination of sufficient funding by the Director of Finance.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 123492 of the Health and Safety Code
- 2 is amended to read:
- 3 123492. The department shall develop a grant application and
- 4 award grants on a competitive basis to counties for the startup,
- 5 continuation, and expansion of the program established pursuant
- 6 to Section 123491. To be eligible to receive a grant for purposes
- 7 of that section, a county shall agree to *do* all of the following:
- 8 (a) Serve through the program only pregnant, low-income
- 9 women who have had no previous live births. Notwithstanding
- 10 subdivision (b) of Section 123485, women who are juvenile
- 11 offenders or who are clients of the juvenile system shall be deemed
- 12 eligible for services under the program.
- 13 (b) Enroll women in the program while they are still pregnant,
- 14 before the 28th week of gestation, and preferably before the 16th
- 15 week of gestation, and continue those women in the program
- 16 through the first two years of the child's life.
- 17 (c) Use as home visitors only registered nurses who have been
- 18 licensed in the state.
- 19 (d) Have nurse home visitors undergo training according to the
- 20 program and follow the home visit guidelines developed by the
- 21 Nurse-Family Partnership program.
- 22 (e) Have nurse home visitors specially trained in prenatal care
- 23 and early child development.
- 24 (f) Have nurse home visitors follow a visit schedule keyed to
- 25 the developmental stages of pregnancy and early childhood.
- 26 (g) Ensure that, to the extent possible, services shall be rendered
- 27 in a culturally and linguistically competent manner.
- 28 (h) Limit a nurse home visitor's caseload to no more than 25
- 29 active families at any given time.

1 (i) Provide, for every eight nurse home visitors, a full-time nurse
2 supervisor who holds at least a bachelor's degree in nursing and
3 has substantial experience in community health nursing.

4 (j) Have nurse home visitors and nurse supervisors trained in
5 effective home visitation techniques by qualified trainers.

6 (k) Have nurse home visitors and nurse supervisors trained in
7 the method of assessing early infant development and parent-child
8 interaction in a manner consistent with the program.

9 (l) Provide data on operations, results, and expenditures in the
10 formats and with the frequencies specified by the department.

11 (m) Collaborate with other home visiting and family support
12 programs in the community to avoid duplication of services and
13 complement and integrate with existing services to the extent
14 practicable.

15 (n) Demonstrate that adoption of the Nurse-Family Partnership
16 program is supported by a local governmental or
17 government-affiliated community planning board, decisionmaking
18 board, or advisory body responsible for assuring the availability
19 of effective, coordinated services for families and children in the
20 community.

21 (o) Provide cash or in-kind matching funds in the amount of
22 100 percent of the grant award.

23 ~~(p) Prohibit the use of moneys received for the program as a~~
24 ~~match for grants currently administered by the department.~~

25 SEC. 2. Section 123493 of the Health and Safety Code is
26 amended to read:

27 123493. (a) The department may accept voluntary
28 contributions, in cash or in-kind, to pay for the costs ~~in~~ of the
29 implementation of the program under Section 123492. These
30 private donations shall be deposited into the California Families
31 and Children Account, which is hereby created in the State
32 Treasury, ~~in~~ which, notwithstanding Section 13340 of the
33 Government Code, is hereby continuously appropriated to the
34 department for purposes of implementing Section 123492. No state
35 funds shall be used in implementing Section 123492.

36 ~~(b) The department shall only distribute grants established under~~
37 ~~Section 123492 if the Director of Finance determines, in writing,~~
38 ~~that there are sufficient funds from private donations available in~~
39 ~~the account for expenditure for the purposes of the program.~~

40 (e)

1 (b) The department's administration costs shall not exceed 5
2 percent of the moneys in the account created under subdivision
3 (a). Any costs to the department incurred prior to the account
4 receiving funds shall be reimbursed to the department from funds
5 in the account.
6 ~~(d)~~
7 (c) The department shall not apply for grants or solicit private
8 funds.
9 ~~(e)~~
10 (d) If, as of January 1, ~~2009~~ 2014, the Director of Finance
11 determines pursuant to subdivision (a) that there are insufficient
12 funds on deposit in the account to implement the voluntary nurse
13 home visiting grant program, the account shall cease to exist.
14 SEC. 3. Section 7 of Chapter 878 of the Statutes of 2006 is
15 amended to read:
16 Sec. 7. If there are not sufficient funds on deposit in the
17 California Families and Children Account, established pursuant
18 to subdivision (a) of Section 123493 of the Health and Safety Code
19 by January 1, ~~2009~~ 2014, the account shall cease to exist.